



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**CASQA – New Executive Director, Board** - The California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) recently hired Geoff Brosseau as its first Executive Director and also elected five new members to its Board. CASQA is a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to provide assistance to public and private entities charged with stormwater quality management responsibilities. CASQA publishes the *California State Best Management Practices (BMP) Handbooks*. CASQA also works with the State, U.S. EPA, and local jurisdictions during the development of stormwater policy, guidance, and requirements. CASQA holds full-day meetings focused on selected stormwater topics at least quarterly, and convenes subcommittees to work on relevant issues. More information: <http://www.casqa.org/>

**Recycled Water Runoff – SWRCB Executive Director resolves permitting issues** – A 1990 law (AB 2217-Baker), requires Caltrans to use reclaimed water for the irrigation of freeway landscaping and also permits local agencies to place recycled water transmission lines in the right-of-way for transmission of recycled water to others.

To resolve permitting issues related to the use of recycled water, the State Water Resources Control Board Executive Director has issued a general policy letter with the recommendation that runoff of recycled water from irrigation and similar projects be addressed by existing storm water permits rather than by a separate NPDES permit, if certain conditions are met.

In addition, the letter indicates that incidental runoff does not violate recycling requirements when these prohibit the discharge of waste to waters of the State. Some Regional Boards had assumed that *any* amount of incidental runoff constituted a discharge of treated wastewater and required a separate NPDES permit (referred to as the “one molecule rule”).

The letter also notes: “If discharges from a reclamation project area occur routinely, such discharges can be regulated under a municipal storm water NPDES permit in most cases.” Municipal storm water permits (including Caltrans) include “landscape irrigation” and “irrigation water” on the list of authorized non-storm water discharges which may be discharged if they pose no threat to water quality. The policies in the letter apply only to recycled water that has received tertiary filtration as specified under Title 22 (California Code of Regulations).

The letter is intended to remove some current regulatory roadblocks to recycling, however, the requirement to not exceed objectives may present compliance problems due to bacteria entrained from soil surfaces and ubiquitous pollutants such as dioxin and possibly pesticides. For a copy: <http://berkeleyenviro.com/documents/incidental-runoff.doc>

**Clean Water Act – Jurisdiction limited to water** – The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia decided March 2, 2004, that citizen suits under the Clean Water Act can not be used to enforce complaints about odor, noise, or other non-water issues. <http://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/99-2798.pdf>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/index.htm> Click: *Storm Water Bulletins*